



COCA Update

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)
CDC Emergency Communication System

December 21, 2015

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This issue contains guidance documents relevant to current public health events and information from **December 7–21**.

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions may occur when there is emergency information or an event-specific update to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **January 4**.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)
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Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

Archived COCA conference calls are available at emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp.

Free continuing education credits (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) are available for most calls. For more information about free CE, visit emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp

CDC Emergency Response – 2014 Ebola in the United States and West Africa

NEW: Sierra Leone Trial to Introduce a Vaccine against Ebola (STRIVE)

The College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences (COMAHS), University of Sierra Leone, the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), and CDC are collaborating on a candidate Ebola vaccine trial in Sierra Leone.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/strive/qa.html>

UPDATE: Case Counts

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html>

CDC News and Announcements

NEW: Public Health Grand Rounds: Strengthening a Culture of Laboratory Safety

Today, more than 2,000 laboratory scientists in more than 150 labs at CDC work with specimens to identify new health threats, stop outbreaks, and gain new knowledge. In this session of Public Health Grand Rounds, our panel discussed how standards of laboratory safety have improved over the years, what we've learned from past

incidents, and how establishing safety protocols and training systems can lead to an overall culture of workplace safety, resulting in continued public trust in our science and recommendations.

<http://www.cdc.gov/cdcgrandrounds/archives/2015/december2015.htm>

CDC Science Clips: Volume 7, Issue: 49 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

www.cdc.gov/library/sciclips/issues/

Public Health Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find preparedness resources for all hazards.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/health-professionals.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training resources at

emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Be Prepared to Stay Safe and Healthy in Winter – (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/winterweather/index.html>

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html

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- [Notes from the Field: Injection Safety and Vaccine Administration Errors at an Employee Influenza Vaccination Clinic — New Jersey, 2015](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne, and Zoonotic Diseases

Seasonal Influenza

NEW: Evaluating and Managing Patients Exposed to Birds Infected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A (H5) Viruses

HPAI H5 outbreak responders are being asked to self-observe for signs and symptoms consistent with influenza on a daily basis and to call their health department if they develop compatible illness. Health departments may ask responders to seek care and/or testing for influenza A virus infection, including testing for H5 virus. This link summarizes important clinical information related to HPAI H5 and CDC's recommendations for patient evaluation, treatment, and testing.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/clinicians-evaluating-patients.htm>

NEW: Study Looks at Flu Vaccine Dosing in Children

CDC recommends that children aged 6 months through 8 years of age get two doses of flu vaccine, at least one month apart, the first year they are vaccinated against flu. A study in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* looked at vaccination history and vaccine effectiveness data on patients 6 months to 8 years of age from clinics in five states that are part of the U.S. Flu VE Network during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 to find trends.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/news/vaccine-dosing-children.htm>

Pregnant? Get a Flu Shot!

<http://www.cdc.gov/features/pregnancyandflu/index.html>

What You Should Know for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season

www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/upcoming.htm

Weekly Flu View – December 12 – (CDC)

Flu View is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC's Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Information for Health Professionals – (CDC)

Healthcare providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist healthcare providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – December 16 – (U.S. Department of State)

The U.S. Department of State issues Travel Warnings when long-term, protracted conditions make a country dangerous or unstable. Travel Warnings recommend that Americans avoid or carefully consider the risk of travel to that country. The State Department also issues Travel Warnings when the U.S. government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of State Department staff.

travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html

Food, Drug, and Device Safety

NEW: Food Safe and Pregnant: Tips for the Holidays and Beyond – (CDC)

The holiday season is filled with parties, family gatherings, and lots of food. While everyone wants to keep food safe, it is especially important for pregnant women to do so. Here are some tips to share with pregnant women this holiday season.

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HolidayFoodSafety/index.html>

NEW: Chariot Guiding Sheath by Boston Scientific: Recall - Risk of Shaft Separation – (FDA)

Boston Scientific has voluntarily recalled the Chariot Guiding Sheath globally. The recall affects all UPNs of the Chariot Guiding Sheaths. The recall was initiated on November 19, 2015, due to the risk of shaft separation.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm476848.htm>

NEW: Baclofen Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient from Taizhou Xinyou Pharmaceutical and Chemical: FDA Statement - FDA Warns of Potential Contamination – (FDA)

FDA is alerting drug compounders that certain lots of baclofen active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) manufactured by Taizhou Xinyou Pharmaceutical & Chemical Co., Limited (Taizhou) Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province, China, may be at risk for contamination with particulates and should not be used to compound sterile injectable drugs.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm476514.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)

MedWatch is your Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch

FoodSafety.gov: Reports of FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting, and Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

FoodSafety.gov lists notices of recalls and alerts from both FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visitors to the site can report a problem or make inquiries.

www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html

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For information about this update or other clinical issues, or to send your feedback, please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

[CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity Facebook page](#) – real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers

[COCA RSS Feed](#) – subscribe to be notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication Training](#) – training program that draws from lessons learned during public health emergencies, and incorporates best practices from the fields of risk and crisis communication

[Health Alert Network](#) – CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories



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